

~~SECRET~~ - ~~SENSITIVE~~

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 11652, SEC. 1(E), 5(D), 5(E) AND 11

SYNOPSIS OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

BY MJM

NARS DATE 5-23-78

1. This morning I reluctantly ordered the armed forces to attack and destroy the nuclear build-up in Cuba.
2. Background of U.S. position re offensive weapons.
3. Catalogue of offensive weapons in Cuba (possible pictures)

Further pictures to be released as soon as possible.

Faced with this situation, action became necessary both to remove the immediate offensive threat to the Americas and to make crystal clear to the Soviet Union that the United States means what it says and is prepared to defend liberty with all the means at its disposal.

This applies elsewhere in the world as well as in Cuba. I refer particularly to Berlin. The United States is fully prepared to live up to its commitments should there be any attempt to alter the situation by military force. There

should

should be no doubt on the part of anyone, that, in carrying out this commitment, the US will be prepared to use all the forces at its disposal including nuclear.

4. This is a limited operation but it must not be permitted to recur. Accordingly, I have instructed the armed forces to prevent the delivery to Cuba of military equipment of all sorts as well as of all petroleum products since these are essential to the operation of Cuban military equipment.

5. This development in Cuba emphasizes the dangers in the present world situation. It has become essential for us to remove tensions rather than to create new ones. Accordingly I have informed Premier Khrushchev that the United States is prepared to promptly withdraw all nuclear forces presently based in Turkey. This includes squadrons of jupiter missiles, and all offensive strike aircraft. I have also asked him to meet with me at a mutual point to work out further concrete steps to reduce tensions and prevent the recurrence of the tragic events which have been forced upon us.

6. The United States is also calling the OAS w into session to report on the Cuban developments and to determine future courses of common action.

7. We are also reporting fully to the NATO Council.

8. I, as
[REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

8. I, as President, had the greatest reluctance to order the action that is now being carried out. I made every effort to clarify my position. But the Cuban authorities would not listen. In the face of their open defiance action became inevitable. No time could be lost as the dangerous weapons were practically in position and ready for operation.

9. ~~XX~~ I ask the people to remain calm, go about your daily business, secure in the knowledge that our freedom loving country will not allow its security to be undermined. To the people of Cuba, I say we have no quarrel with you -- and only await the day when you can throw off the leaders who are leading you to disaster and rejoin the society of free American states.

10. To the

[REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

10. To the people of the Soviet Union I say we bear you no malice. We wish to live in friendship and peace, we hope that means can be found to reduce tensions and bring about a ~~truly~~ truly peaceful world.

11. To our allies and others in the free world, we
forth
say quite/rightly that we are prepared and ready to risk
all to maintain their freedom against any aggressive attack
by Communist forces.